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Natural Outlook MONTHLY UPDATE

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Natural Outlook Monthly Update is the TNRCC's monthly publication of environmental issues in Texas with a focus on air quality, water quality, drought, and sunset review. Below is the Web version of the May 2000 issue for your viewing.

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May 2000 Issue



[Abandoned Wells to be Capped](#)

The TNRCC and Texas Railroad Commission are moving forward with plans to plug abandoned oil wells in the San Angelo region. The project will target wells that contribute to surface-water and groundwater contamination. The first group of wells will be plugged by the end of this summer. By August 2002, a total of 171 wells will have been addressed. The dual-agency partnership combines the TNRCC's expertise in water quality and the Railroad Commission's well-plugging experience.



[Houston Air Quality at Issue](#)

Houston area officials and businesses, anticipating a crackdown on air pollution, have undertaken several initiatives to address ground-level ozone. The city has pledged to reduce emissions in its own vehicle fleet, and the county is working on a construction inventory analysis. Local business leaders are sponsoring a study of compliance costs

for federal regulations. Later this year, the TNRCC must update the Houston-Galveston area air quality plan and submit the proposal to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.



Drought Forecast: Extending through 2000

Spring rains brought welcome relief to many areas of the state, but not enough to quell predictions of another long, dry summer. Most of Texas is expected to remain in drought conditions throughout this year, perhaps longer, according to George Bomar, the TNRCC's senior meteorologist. That's because Texas and this part of the country are still feeling the effects of the La Niña weather pattern, which is expected to remain in place over the Pacific Ocean through the summer or fall. Residual effects could last into 2001.

The above information is also published as TNRCC print publication PD-020/00-05.

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